

Legislative Federal Economic Stimulus Program Oversight Commission
Department/Agency Questionnaire
December 22, 2009

ARRA program: Victims of Crime Act Victim Assistance Formula Grant Program
Office for Victims of Crime
U.S. Department of Justice

Project title: Recovery Act – OVC FY 09 VOCA Victim Assistance Formula Grant Program

Award number: 2009-SG-B9-0138

1. For each group/category or program/project for which ARRA funds have been obtained, please provide the following information:

(a) A brief summary of the program/project, including goals;

The overall goal of the Victims of Crime Act (VOCA) grant program is to provide services to crime victims to reduce the impact of the victimization. These services include crisis response, counseling, assistance through the criminal justice process, and information and referrals to other services.

(b) Whether funds were appropriated for expenditure by a federal agency, were awarded as a formula/block grant to a State or county agency, or were awarded on a competitive grant basis;

Formula grant.

(c) Whether matching funds are required, and, if so:

- (i) Are they available;**
- (ii) Have they been secured;**
- (iii) If they have not been secured, why not; and**
- (iv) Will the State be required to continue that match or provide increased/full funding in the future;**

No match is required for administrative funds. Sub-recipients must provide a 20% cash or in-kind match.

(d) If there are additional requirements to receive funds, what are they;

VOCA program requirements apply – for example, funds must be used for direct services to crime victims or for activities that improve direct services; prevention activities are not allowable; at least 10% of funds must be allocated, respectively, to domestic violence services, sexual assault services, child abuse services, and

services to the state-designated underserved population. (In Hawaii, survivors of homicide, DUI victims, and elder abuse victims have been identified as underserved populations.) Standard federal grant requirements also apply – for example, no supplanting, no discrimination, no lobbying, drug free workplace, equal employment opportunity.

- (e) **The amount of funds involved and the state/federal fiscal year within which the funds must be expended (e.g. SFY 2009-2010 or FFY 2009-2010);**

Amount of funds involved: \$585,000

The funds must be expended by September 30, 2012.

- (f) **What criteria were used to identify the program/project as a priority and how does the program/project meet them;**

The VOCA grant program requirements regarding direct services, described above, are the base criteria.

Hawaii receives a VOCA grant every year. The Department passes the majority of these funds through to the county Prosecuting Attorneys' offices, which assume certain administrative responsibilities. The funds support the prosecutors' victim-witness assistance programs and the prosecutors' contracts for crime victim services, such as domestic violence shelters and sex assault crisis centers. This system reflects the underlying philosophy that victim service needs are better identified at the local level, and that county agencies are better able to ensure coordination of local services. The same system is being used for the ARRA VOCA funds.

In April 2009, the Department's VOCA program staff met with the prosecutors' victim-witness assistance program directors to coordinate the use of these funds. It was determined that the funds would best be used to continue services that otherwise would be terminated because of a decrease in state funding for non-profit victim service providers. The Department asked the victim-witness assistance program directors to assess the needs caused in their respective counties by this funding decrease. After discussing funding needs with victim service agencies in their respective counties, each victim-witness assistance program director provided to the Department a problem statement and description regarding gaps and needs in victim services, and how they intended to use the ARRA VOCA funds to provide the needed services.

- (g) **Efforts undertaken to coordinate application for funds and administration of the program/project, including expenditure of funds, with other federal, state, and county agencies;**

Please see section 1.(f) above.

(h) The criteria used to select activities for the program/project;

Please see section 1.(f) above.

(i) Efforts made to provide public notice and seek public comment/input or, if public comment/input was not sought, why;

The victim-witness assistance program directors communicated with nonprofit service providers regarding victim service needs. A copy of the Department's formula grant application is posted in the Department website, and inquiries from nonprofit victim service providers are referred to the victim-witness assistance program director of the appropriate county.

(j) Efforts made during the bidding/award process to ensure that it was transparent and that the funds were awarded based on merit and in a prompt, fair, and reasonable manner;

The Department complies with State procurement statutes and rules. The county Prosecuting Attorneys' offices comply with county procurement procedures.

(k) Measures employed to: (1) reduce duplication of efforts, (2) ensure that funds were used for authorized purposes, and (3) prevent cost overruns, fraud, waste, error, and abuse;

The Department reviewed applications to ensure that there was no duplication with other known funding sources, and that the activities and budget items were allowable and reasonable. The Department conducts desk monitoring (review of program reports and fiscal reports) and site visits, using established grant administration procedures, to verify compliance. The county Prosecuting Attorneys' offices conduct program and fiscal monitoring of their nonprofit subgrantees.

(l) Current status of the program/project, including percentage of awarded funds that have been obtained, percentage of awarded funds encumbered and/or expended, and what part(s) of program/project have been completed; and

No funds have been expended. The Department is in the process of obtaining signatures for two of the four contracts. For the other two contracts, the Department is working with the respective county Prosecuting Attorneys' offices to revise certain goals, objectives, and budget items. The Department expects that the four contracts will be executed in January 2010.

- (m) **Actual or anticipated economic impact to the State of the program/project, including the number of jobs saved/created and the long-term public benefits of the program/project.**

Number of jobs created/saved: This number will be determined after the county Prosecuting Attorneys' offices complete their sub-grants to nonprofit service providers.

Public benefit: Provision of services to crime victims that otherwise would not be available because of a lack of funding for personnel.

2. **For other programs/projects, if ARRA funds, such as competitive grants, were available for a program/project but were not sought or were denied, please briefly describe why the funds were not sought or why they were denied.**

Not applicable. No other ARRA funds were available for the VOCA program.

3. **Please describe:**

- (a) **Any legal/operational barriers/constraints encountered in the award, receipt, encumbrance, or expenditure of funds, including procurement, late/delayed federal guidance, and reporting requirements;**
- (b) **The effect of those barriers/constraints; and**
- (c) **If and how they were mitigated.**

None.